

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

**SOSAMMA CHERIYAN, L.P.N.**  
**License # 26NP06873200**

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Sosamma Cheriyan ("Respondent") is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about July 10, 2014, the Board sent a letter of inquiry asking Respondent, among other things, to supply documentation of completion of all continued education completed for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle.
3. Respondent indicated that she had completed continuing education, but provided no certificates of completion or other documentation demonstrating that she had timely completed nursing continuing education as required by N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

4. On her 2014 renewal application, Respondent indicated that she would have timely completed continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014 renewal period by May 31, 2014.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Respondent's failure to document timely completion of required continuing education for the 2012-2014 renewal period constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on her 2014 renewal application that she would have completed required continuing education for the 2012-2014 renewal period by May 31, 2014 constitutes misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand, and two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on November 4, 2014. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing documentation of completing:

0 hours within the June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2014 biennial period; and

31 hours within the June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016 current biennial period.

Respondent also included some other certificate of completion for classes or courses that were not approved or accredited as continuing education for nurses. Respondent may apply 30 of the hours recently completed to cure the deficiency of the previous biennial period and avoid suspension on that basis, but those same 30 hours may not also be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period. Respondent shall complete an additional 29 hours of continuing education prior to May 31, 2016 to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. Inasmuch as Respondent cured the continuing education deficiency of the previous biennial period, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted. However, the Board determined that Respondent's failure to timely complete the required continuing education warrants imposition of a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty and that a reprimand was warranted for Respondent's corresponding false answer on her renewal.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015

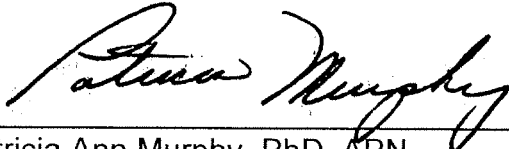
**ORDERED that:**

1. A public reprimand is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).
2. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed for the failure to timely complete required continuing education in

violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

3. Continuing education completed after May 31, 2014 and applied to cure the deficiency of the previous biennial renewal period shall not also be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period. Respondent shall complete an additional 29 hours of continuing education prior to May 31, 2016 to satisfy the requirements of the June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016 biennial period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President